MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 JANUARY 1987

Iran-Iraq War

A 9 January Iraqi air raid on Susangerd killed 58 civilians and wounded 100 others, IRNA announced. The attack followed the start of a new Iranian offensive against Iraq's III Army Corps in the Shalamcheh area of the southern front. An Iranian communique cited by the agency claimed that 5,000 Iraqis were killed or wounded in the offensive, codenamed Karbala 5, adding that Iran also took 287 prisoners. Iranian jets pounded Iraqi positions in the area, while helicopters hit and destroyed an Iraqi headquarters. In related reports, IRNA said the Iranians advanced 4 km, swiftly reaching Iraqi rear positions in a surprise attack featuring "innovative" tactics in a "complicated amphibious" operation. IRNA also claimed that Iranian antiaircraft fire downed eight Iraqi aircraft over the battlefront.

An Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio asserted that the III Corps "expelled" the attackers and "destroyed" them in areas where they had gained a "foothold." The communique acknowledged that Iranian forces were still present in three sectors of Iraqi territory but added that the offensive is "doomed to failure." Related INA reports spoke of large numbers of Iranian corpses littering the battlefield, asserting that the enemy sustained a "terrible defeat" in which its forces fell into a "massacre of horrible death." Iran's claims to have shot down Iraqi aircraft were dismissed by an Iraqi spokesman as part of Iran's policy of "lies and charlatanism," according to INA.

Lebanon

Israeli Raid — The IDF spokesman announced an Israeli Air Force raid on southern Lebanon 9 January, stating that warplanes scored "good hits" on "terrorist targets" near Maghdushah, IDF radio reported. The spokesman added that the raid was directed against houses that served as command posts from which terrorists departed on attack missions. A PFLP spokesman cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon said the raid hit PFLP positions, and Voice of Lebanon radio said three people were killed and seven were injured.

Iran, Libya on Camps War — Reporting on an 8 January meeting in Damascus between Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati and Libyan Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, IRNA noted that both sides called for an immediate end to the camps war and urged the belligerent parties to direct their weapons against Israel. In a related statement broadcast by Tehran radio, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam warned that Iran will hold the adversaries responsible for failing to implement the provisions of the Iranian-sponsored cease-fire plan.

Libya

New Capital — Following Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's 1 January announcement that all administrative departments have been transferred out of Tripoli, Belgrade TANJUG reported that Tripoli has ceased to be the Libyan capital. The agency said the new capital is Hun, a small town located 600 kilometers southeast of Tripoli and 250 kilometers into the desert.

Chad Conflict — Libyan planes bombed the Chadian town of Zouar 8 January, according to an official source in Ndjamena cited by AFP. Ndjamena radio condemned the attack as a "savage and odious bombing." From Libya, Tripoli radio reported that residents of the Chadian town of Faya Largeau have appealed to Col al-Qadhdhafi to intervene in Chad against the "mutineering and lackey clique in Ndjamena."

In other developments, the split between GUNT factions was highlighted by broadcasts from Ndjamena radio and the clandestine Bardai Chadian National Radio. While Radio Bardai broadcast a GUNT communique from Faya Largeau condemning the French raid on Ouadi Doum airport and urging GUNT forces to attack "all French interests," Ndjamena radio broadcast a statement by GUNT Chief of Staff Adoum Yacoub announcing the integration of GUNT into the Chadian National Armed Forces.

Israel

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir invited Jordan's King Husayn to a face-to-face meeting "anywhere" to discuss peace between the two countries. In remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Shamir reiterated that there is "no substitute for direct negotiations." He suggested that joint ventures between the countries' adjoining ports of Elat and Al-'Aqabah could serve as "building blocks" for a peace agreement. Shamir also spoke with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy following Murphy's mediation talks with King Husayn in Amman, Jerusalem radio reported. They agreed on a policy of "quiet diplomacy" to foster further contacts betwen Israel and Jordan. Commenting on the Shamir-Murphy meeting, an editorial in the Jordanian daily *Al-Dustur* scored Shamir's rejection of an international conference on peace and blamed U.S. "blind bias" for Israeli "intransigence."

Egypt

Talks between the Egyptian and Ethiopian foreign ministers on 8 January focused on trade, economic cooperation, and on the upcoming official visit of Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam to Egypt, MENA reported.

FBIS DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 006 *9 January 1987*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

'Text' of USSR Foreign Minister's Interview ..... C 1
Najibullah Receives Soviet Komsomol Delegation ..... C 2
Afghan Muslim Women Reject Cease-Fire Plan *[Tehran]* ..... C 2
1000-Member Group Joins Reconciliation Process ..... C 2

BANGLADESH

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Continues Visit ..... D 1
Talks With Foreign Minister 8 Jan *[IRNA]* ..... D 1
Conveys Message to Ershad ..... D 1
India's Tiwari Ends Visit; Satisfied With Talks ..... D 1
Acts Against Insurgency To Continue *[Delhi]* ..... D 1
Chinese Army Chief Yang Dezhi Calls on Ershad ..... D 1
Bhutanese Foreign Minister Departs 8 Jan ..... D 1

INDIA

CPI-M Meeting Condemns Gurkhaland Movement ..... E 1
Clashes Injure 19 in Delhi; 94 Arrested ..... E 1
'Terrorists' Kill 9 in Punjab's Amritsar ..... E 1
AFP: Most Wanted Sikh Arrested in Punjab ..... E 1

OTHER COUNTRIES

SRI LANKA

Government Group Approves Provincial Council Bills ..... G 1
Air Force Helicopters Strafe Northern Jaffna *[Delhi]* ..... G 1
LTTE Communications Building Overtaken in Jaffna ..... G 1
Delhi Reports Clashes Continuing ..... G 1
Tamil Radio Criticizes Oil Blockade in Jaffna *[Voice of Tamil Eelam]* ..... G 2

IRAN

Friday Imam on 'Karbala-5,' Islamic Summit ..... I 1
Khamene'i: Kuwait as ICO Venue 'In Jeopardy' ..... I 1
Statement Urges End to Camps War in Lebanon ..... I 1
Reports on FRG Cargo Planes 'New Propaganda' ..... I 2
Reportage on Combat Operations, New Offensive ..... I 2
'Karbala 5' Launched in Shalamcheh ..... I 2
'Thousands' of Iraqis Killed ..... I 2
2 Iraqi Planes Downed; Tanks Hit ..... I 3
'Key' Iraqi Headquarters Destroyed ..... I 3
'More Than 300' Iraqis Captured ..... I 3
Combat Tactics Termed 'Innovative' ..... I 3
Iraqi Troop Concentrations Bombed ..... I 3
2 More Iraqi Planes Downed ..... I 3
Captured Iraqis Said To Exceed 500 ..... I 3
'At Least' 3 Iraqi Brigades Hit ..... I 3
WIH Issues Warning to Iraq ..... I 4

New Front Said Opened in Kushk ..... I 4
Iraqi Planes Downed Total 6 ..... I 4
Commander on 'Victorious' Operation ..... I 4
Iraqi 'Rescue' Battalions 'Routed' ..... I 4
7th Iraqi Plane Downed ..... I 5
Iraqi Planes Downed Total 8 ..... I 5
Communique Summarizes Operation ..... I 5
Iraqi Communique Confesses 'Defeat' ..... I 5
Ninth Iraqi Jet Downed ..... I 5
POW's Cited on Operation ..... I 5
Iraqis Launch 'Desperate' Air Raid ..... I 6
Death Toll Reaches 100 ..... I 6
Iraq Warned of Retaliation ..... I 6
IRGC Forces Attack Iraqi Vessels ..... I 6
Communique No 2,710 ..... I 6

'Text' of USSR Foreign Minister's Interview

LD091157 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Kabul, January 8, BAKHTAR — Following is the text of the interview granted by Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR foreign minister, to a reporter of *Bakhtar Information Agency*, BIA.

Question: Comrade minister, your working visit to Afghanistan takes place right after the meeting held between Comrade Najib and M.S. Gorbachev, the top leaders of our countries. What is the aim of your visit and Anatoliy Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee?

Answer: The visit is aimed at expanding and deepening of Soviet-Afghan cooperation, to invigorate it (?in) the new state and, as Comrade Najib had said, as a turning point in the history of new Afghanistan. We are confident that, presently, the Soviet-Afghan relations are attaining new qualitative dimensions, which call for fresh approaches and bold initiatives. The recent talks between Comrade M.S. Gorbachev and Comrade Najib in Moscow have laid the stable basis to this effect. All these factors determine the need for our visit to Afghanistan.

Question: What is your impression about this visit?

Answer: I consider it as a very useful, contentful, and constructive visit which has been in line with the spirit of the latest talks held in Moscow.

During our talks with Comrades Najib, Keshtmand, Wakil, and other leaders of Afghanistan, we expressed our full support to the policy of national reconciliation declared by the latest plenum of the Central Committee of the PDPA and lauded the call made to all opposition forces with the proposal on the cease fire.

We think that the said measures and other steps taken by the Afghan leadership provide the genuine possibility for all political forces, all social and ethnic groups and tribes to unite, on a democratic and patriotic basis, in the name of peace on Afghan soil.

We understand the policy of national reconciliation is aimed at rapprochement and drawing the cooperation of the groups who are, although fighting with each other, but are concerned about the destiny of their country.

The proposal of the PDPA for a truce and for opening a nationwide dialogue has been a courageous and responsible step. Thus, the leaders of the DRA are saying that it is the duty of all true patriots of Afghanistan to give peace and calm to their long-suffering fatherland. The people are the supreme judge and it is only they that can make out who at hard and critical times were thinking of the destiny and future of their homeland and who thought of their egoistic, selfish interests, taking instructions from strangers and fulfilling their will.

Those who are countering reconciliation with irreconcilability, they demonstrate once again what has long been obvious, namely that the cease-fire is opposed by those who are backed by imperialism, the forces which aren't in the least concerned about what will happen to Afghanistan and which make their policy on Afghan's blood.

The popular government of Afghanistan offers everyone a chance to join in the work of rebuilding a peaceful, sovereign, independent, and non-aligned state of all Afghans. No real patriot will refrain from making his contribution to his homeland for bringing about peace and unity.

Question: What link there exists in your opinion between the policy of national reconciliation and the policy of the political solution of the issues around Afghanistan"

Answer: There exists a direct and close link between these two policies. These mutually help one another. Those who say that a political solution is solely dependent on the withdrawal of the Soviet troops staying in Afghanistan at the request of the Government of Afghanistan, are deliberately misrepresenting and distorting facts.

The political solution of the situation around Afghanistan depends primarily on an end to outside interference and on guarantees of its non-resumption. The national reconciliation policy can create real domestic prerequisites for a political solution of the situation around Afghanistan. The internal and external factors are closely intertwined. In our opinion, the political solution is not a remote prospect but is today's reality. Accordingly, the issue of withdrawing the Soviet Troops is being considered by us and the Government of the DRA. We have already made a first step in this direction by taking six of our regiments out. So, there, the issue of Soviet troops' withdrawal is utterly clear. This event is not far off. It is only needed that in the neighbouring countries they also realise what is in their interest and what is not.

Question: Do you refer to the neighbours of Afghanistan?

Answer: Yes, but not only to them. In recent years, the U.S. has been following a neo-globalist policy. The main thrust of that policy is directed towards Afghanistan. The U.S. pretends to have adopted a noble and disinterested position vis-a-vis Afghanistan, but, in reality, it is very deplorable.

When Pakistan and other countries are willingly or unwillingly helping the U.S. expansionism, this will aggravate the already tense situation in Afghanistan.

About the Soviet Union's attitude to the Pakistani and Iranian factors in Afghan affairs it can be said that we have good, good-neighbourly relations with Pakistan and Iran and we shall develop them in every way, guided by the simple truth that a settlement around Afghanistan will benefit both Pakistan and Iran, which should be vitally interested in the existence of a non-aligned and independent, friendly neighbouring country. The Afghan leadership's new platform offers the neighbours of Afghanistan a possibility to make a contribution of their own to national reconciliation and hence to peace in the region.

Question: Permit me to return to the Afghan-Soviet relations. You discussed about the new dimensions of these relations in the

light of the policy of national reconciliation adopted by our leadership. Can you cite a few examples in this connection?

Answer: Yes, I can cite such examples. At the moment the policy of national reconciliation is being implemented. As we understand when the issue of social development comes into being in an urgent manner, the ordinary life will be restored and the need of schools, polyclinics, hospitals, kindergartens, [and] the educational, professional, and technical centres will be increased.

The Afghan fugitives will return to the country. Jobs should be provided to them. This should be put into effect at a sufficient speed through the creation of small-scale economic and social infrastructures.

Accordingly, it is necessary to bring changes in the spheres of Afghan-Soviet cooperation. We can adjust this cooperation more flexibly, conforming to the new needs and new tasks which will arise in the process of national reconciliation. The other example is in the sphere of trade.

We will make the trade more balanced and really mutually beneficial. This means in practice that both sides should propose the commodities demanded by the other side. To this effect, we should actively create mixed enterprises with the participation of the Afghan private sector. We have now relatively good trade transactions with the Afghan merchants. The trade exchange can be expanded speedily and there is sufficient potentialities for its development. The formulation of a purposeful program aimed at increasing trade with the Afghan trader is in its final stage.

There exists great potential for expansion of border trade. Both sides are mutually interested in it. We have harmonized with our Afghan friends the plans for the expansion of this method of trade. I think that this will have great prospects. Obviously, these factors will complement our long cooperation for the construction of big industrial units, the contemporary economic growth of the country, and the creation of jobs to the maximum.

Question: What is your impression of our country?

Answer: I have many impressions and particularly the talks with Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA CC, have impressed me deeply. The plan of national reconciliation which has been formulated by them, in which all practical problems are taken into account with careful analysis and balanced coordination, has (?impressed) us all [word indistinct]. Stating this [word indistinct] I do not hesitate to say that each component of this proposal which is innovative and dynamic has been compiled by Najib with much labour. This is natural for those who have sympathy for the future of their country. I can not say that I have become closely acquainted with Afghanistan in my two-day visit. But the basic thing that we attained during our visit to your country and our talks with the leaders of the DRA is the feeling that the people of Afghanistan look to their future with confidence.

We have profound respect for a nation which has struggled for centuries for its independence and has been able to safeguard its territorial integrity.

At the meetings held with the Afghans we have been deeply impressed by their sincerity, honest hospitality, and the traditional friendship manifested by them.

I wish you to convey my thanks to all Afghan brothers for their warm reception and our best wishes to them for peace and welfare.

Najibullah Receives Soviet Komsomol Delegation

LD082100 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 8 Jan 87

[Text] General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Comrade Najib met in Kabul today with a Komsomol delegation led by Comrade Vladimir Fedocov, secretary of the Komsomol Central Committee and member of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The head of the Komsomol delegation reported on the readiness of the Komsomols for their 20th congress and the active participation of the Komsomols and the Soviet young people in the implementation of the 27th CPSU Congress decisions.

Comrade Najib expressed great appreciation for Komsomol's role and for all Soviet young people in consolidating Afghan-Soviet friendship. He stressed the need to expand contacts with the Soviet Komsomol by the DYOA and all Afghan young people, who play a notable role in implementing the party's policy in connection with national reconciliation.

Comrade Farid Ahmad Mazdak, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the DYOA Central Committee, was also present during this meeting.

Afghan Muslim Women Reject Cease-Fire Plan

LD082213 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 8 Jan 87

[Excerpt] The Movement of Muslim Women of Afghanistan [Nehzat-e Zanan-e Mosalman-e Afghanestan] has issued a statement rejecting the proposed cease-fire plan recently announced by Najibullah, the ruling man of the regime in Afghanistan.

The statement says in part: Now that the atheist and illegal regime in Kabul is facing its weakness and defeat, it issues slogans of cease-fire and national reconciliation as a political deception for holding on to power. However, the reconciliation of Islam with atheism has no meaning. [passage omitted]

1000-Member Group Joins Reconciliation Process

LD091216 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Kabul, January 8, BAKHTAR — Welcoming the policy of national reconciliation, a 1000 member group who was carrying out armed activities in the suburb of Guzra District of Herat Province against the state of the DRA declared the end of their armed activities. They entered into talks with the party and state

authorities of Herat Province and expressed their readiness for joining the process of national reconciliation. The armed group also laid down their weapons including heavy weapons and ammunitions.

At a grand meeting held on the occasion, Sayed Ahmad, the head of the armed group on behalf of his members, appreciated the peace process and pledged to participate actively in the process and the creation of a peaceful atmosphere.

Several clergymen and elderlies of the district expressed their thanks to the party and state of the DRA for the adoption of the peaceful policy of national reconciliation.

They also described the joining of [the] 1000 member group to the policy of national reconciliation as a valuable step for achieving peace and the ending of fratricide.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Talks With Foreign Minister 8 Jan

LD082200 Tehran IRNA in English 1826 GMT 8 Jan 87

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 8, IRNA — Kuwait's open support for the Baghdad regime in the imposed-war together with the small Persian Gulf sheykhdom's inability to maintain adequate security at the upcoming Conference of Islamic States (ICO) are prime reasons for shifting the venue to a neutral state. Visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Mansuri made these remarks here Thursday in a meeting with Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury.

Tehran-Dhaka relations, Iraqi-imposed war, as well as Iran's reasons for the need of shifting the upcoming meet of Islamic Conference Organisation (ICO) from Kuwait, were discussed at the meeting.

Mansuri, who arrived here Wednesday, also invited the Bangladeshi foreign minister to visit Tehran.

Conveys Message to Ershad

BK090136 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] The visiting special envoy of the Iranian Government and (?its) deputy foreign minister, Javad Mansuri, called on President Ershad in Dhaka last night. The envoy handed over a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i of Iran to President Ershad. He also extended an invitation from Iranian president to President Ershad to visit Tehran. President Ershad accepted the invitation. Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury and the Iranian ambassador in Dhaka were present on the occasion.

India's Tiwari Ends Visit; Satisfied With Talks

BK081605 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Jan 87

[Text] The Indian external affairs minister, Mr Narain Dutt Tiwari, left Dhaka today at the end of his 2-day visit. Talking to newsmen prior to his departure, he said he is fully satisfied with the outcome of the talks with Bangladesh leaders.

Acts Against Insurgency To Continue

BK081609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Jan 87

[Text] India and Bangladesh have agreed to continue their operations to deal with insurgency. This was stated by the external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, while talking to newsmen before leaving Dhaka today after a 2-day official visit. The Bangladesh foreign minister, Mr Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, who was present at the airport to see him off, told newsmen that both the countries will cooperate in rooting out the cause of insurgency so that it can be completely eliminated.

All India Radio Dhaka correspondent, Prabhakar Mishra, reports that the two foreign ministers also discussed TNV [Tribal National Volunteers] in Tripura and Shanti Bahini insurgency in Chittangong Hill Tracts.

Chinese Army Chief Yang Dezhi Calls on Ershad

BK081619 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Jan 87

[Text] The visiting chief of general staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, Yang Dezhi, called on President Ershad in Dhaka this morning. The chief of army staff, Lieutenant General Attiquar Rahman, was present on the occasion.

Bhutanese Foreign Minister Departs 8 Jan

BK090417 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Jan 87

[Text] The Bhutanese foreign minister, Mr Lyonpo Dawa Tsering, left for home at the end of his 3-day visit. He attended the international seminar on security of small states (?as a special guest).

CPI-M Meeting Condemns Gurkhaland Movement

BK081716 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Jan 87

[Text] The general secretary of the Communist Party of India-Marxist, Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad, reiterated that the Gurkhaland movement is antinational. He was speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today at the end of the 2-day Politburo meeting of the party.

Mr Namboodiripad said the Nepali-speaking people in Darjeeling area have a right to demand regional autonomy within the state. But the Gurkhaland movement is a serious issue and should not be treated merely as a law and order problem.

A communique on the Politburo meeting expressed concern at the killings by TNV [Tribal National Volunteers] extremists in Tripura. It also expressed concern over, what it called, a new center of conflict in Goa.

The Politburo expressed satisfaction that several Muslim indivuals and organizations have criticized the call for the boycott of republic day celebrations.

On Punjab, it appreciated the services of the security forces in curbing extremist activities. At the same time, it also deplored instances of alleged excesses.

The Politburo was unhappy at the setback to the negotiations for solving the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka.

Referring to the visit of the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, to India, it said the results of his talks with Mr Gandhi are important milestones in Indo-Soviet relations.

Clashes Injure 19 in Delhi; 94 Arrested

BK081555 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Jan 87

[Text] Agitated students of Jamia Milia University in New Delhi today set nine DTC [Delhi Transport Corporation] buses on fire after a student was crushed to death by a bus outside the campus. According to Delhi police, 19 persons, including 14 policemen, were injured when the students resorted to stone throwing. Police fired in the air after teargasing failed to control the violent mob. Ninety-four persons were arrested on charges of rioting.

Police say the situation in the area is under control.

'Terrorists' Kill 9 in Punjab's Amritsar

BK090741 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] In Punjab, suspected terrorists shot dead nine persons in two separate incidents in Amritsar District last night. Reports say six members of a family, including its head, Mr Gurmeet Singh, were shot dead at village Toor. In the second incident, three persons were shot dead at a farm house near Tarn Taran. They were identified as Ujagar Singh, his son Amrik Singh, and Balvinder Singh. More details are awaited.

AFP: Most Wanted Sikh Arrested in Punjab

BK090701 Hong Kong AFP in English 0546 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 9 (AFP) — India's most wanted Sikh militant, Harjinder Singh, alias Jinda, has been caught, officials said here Friday. Mr Jinda, who carried a 100,000 rupee (8,000-dollar) reward on his head, was arrested in Gurdaspur District in the northern state of Punjab, a spokesman for the Border Security Force (BSF) told *Agence France-Presse*. There were no other details immediately available.

The 26-year-old Sikh is suspected of having been behind several Sikh militant killings in the Punjab where a section of the majority Sikh community is fighting for a separate Sikh nation. He is also wanted for the August 10, 1986 assassination of India's former chief of Army Staff Arun Sridhar Vaidya and the killings of two prominent ruling party politicians in the Indian capital in 1985.

SRI LANKA

Government Group Approves Provincial Council Bills

BK071332 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Jan 87

[Text] The government parliamentary group at its meeting yesterday presided over by President J.R. Jayewardene unanimously approved the Pradeshiya Sabhas [provincial councils] bill and the other connected bills which will be taken up in Parliament shortly. President Jayewardene told members that they hope to hold elections to the Pradeshiya Sabhas throughout the country. The elections will be held in Northern and Eastern Provinces as well if the election commissioner deems it fit to hold elections in the two areas. He told the members that they should prepare for the Pradeshiya Sabha elections as they did for the 1977 general elections and gear their party organizations in directorates and districts for the purpose.

Prime Minister R. Premadasa explaining the bill said that the elections to the Pradeshiya Sabhas will be held on the same proportional representation system as for national elections. The system is now being worked out in consultations with all parties and in expected to be approved by Parliament by March this year. The prime minister said that at present there are only 168 members of Parliament to serve the entire country. There are several thousands of youth who are today waiting for an opportunity to serve the people. According to Mr Premadasa the Pradeshhiya Sabhas would give these youths the chance to share some authority to serve the country thus relieving them of their frustration.

Air Force Helicopters Strafe Northern Jaffna

BK071646 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 7 Jan 87

[Excerpt] We have here a PTI report from Colombo which says that the Sri Lankan Air Force helicopters heavily straffed today the northern Jaffna town, which is a stronghold of the Liberation Tigers of the Tamil Eelam. The agency quoting eye witnesses said the attack continued for more than 2 hours.

A Sri Lankan Government spokesman told All India Radio Colombo correspondent that Tamil militants had attacked an air force helicopter. He said the other helicopter which was escorting, fired back on the militant positions. [passage omitted]

LTTE Communications Building Overtaken in Jaffna

BK081345 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0831 GMT 8 Jan 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 08 (LANKA PUWATH) — Sri Lankan security forces in a swift and efficient operation in Jaffna, northern Sri Lanka yesterday afternoon moved in and seized three buildings about 100 yards away from the security camp, from where separatist terrorists of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were using as a base of operation to attack the Jaffna army camp in the fort, official sources told LANKA PUWATH.

The sources said that the operation which took place about 1530 hours (local time) yesterday afternoon, took the terrorists completely by surprise. However, the authorities had taken the precaution of informing the public to move away from the area.

In the fire fight which took place during the takeover of the telecommunications building, the Rupavahini building, and the chest clinic two terrorists were killed while 12 others were wounded.

Meanwhile, latest reports state that while the residents of Jaffna have heeded the warning of the authorities and moved away from the 1,000 metre security zone, the terrorists who are acutely short of fuel have grounded their improvised armoured cars etc. and now travel on bicycles and on foot. Jaffna sources told LANKA PUWATH that they were happy that they would soon be free from being ruled at the point of a gun. The terrorists have now resorted to further plunder in order to maintain their fast depleting logistic lines.

Meanwhile, the Media Centre in Colombo reported that the security forces had moved in and taken over the three buildings in order to preempt any terrorist attacks.

Delhi Reports Clashes Continuing

BK081658 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 8 Jan 87

[Excerpt] Reports from Sri Lanka say that clashes continued in Jaffna town between the security forces and the militants for the 2d day today. Over 300 soldiers, who occupied a telecommunications building, were fighting to gain control of another building next door. Six more civilians were injured in the shelling from the Jaffna Fort today. One militant was killed and 10 houses were destroyed when the security forces resorted to shelling in Point Pedro.

Meanwhile, the national security minister has warned the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam that the government can dislodge them from their stronghold in the Jaffna peninsula if it wants to do so. Mr Lalith Athulathmudali told Parliament that the current action in Jaffna is the show of the government's determination. Replying to a debate on the situation in the north of the island, he said Colombo continues to stand by its peace proposal. The government has no intention to stop food supplies to the north and said it has many options.

The leader of the opposition, Mr Aruna Bandaranaike, told Parliament that the ruling United National Party government has placed irritants in India's way by allowing Israel to take a foothold in the island and permitting the setting up of a Voice of America station. [passage omitted]

Tamil Radio Criticizes Oil Blockade in Jaffna

BK090731 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1330 GMT 7 Jan 87

[News commentary]

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government's action in blocking the supply of petrol, diesel, and kerosene has been described as a dangereous test by many. Dr Balasingham [spokesman of LTTE] said in Madras that he regards it as the first step toward an economic blockade against approximately 800,000 people of Jaffna. The joint council of the Jaffna Citizen's Council has also described it as an economic blockade against the Tamil people. Several Tamil dignitaries have said that this oil blockade is a despotic act stemming from the majority opinion of the racist Sinhalese that the Sri Lankan Government should take military action in Jaffna for a final solution to this problem. Those who are going to be affected by this dangerous step of the Sri Lankan Government are not the freedom fighters, but the millions of innocent Tamil people — and those in power should realize this. They also expressed apprehension that today's oil blockade may gradually lead to the blockade of food, then to the blockade of electricity, and so on. Commander of the Jaffna unit Liberation Tibers of Tamil Eelam, Kittu Krishnakumar, has said that the Sri Lankan Government's reprisal will consolidate the people's support for the freedom fighters and encourage them in their struggle.

Friday Imam on 'Karbala-5,' Islamic Summit
LD091153 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Today, coinciding with the proud operations of the fighters of Islam in the Karbala-5 offensive, religious political Friday prayers were held throughout the country. In Tehran, these ceremonies were held at Tehran University and adjoining streets under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the Friday imam of Tehran.

The Friday imam of Tehran referred to the Karbala-5 offensive, and said: The blows delivered at the enemy during Karbala-4 operations forced the enemy to engage in lies so as to cover up the defeat of its forces and to deceive the Iraqi people and those leaders who support the Saddam regime.

By launching the Karbala-5 offensive the brave fighters of Islam wanted to demonstrate to the world and to the Iraqi people that the Iraqi forces are not capable of confronting the blows of the fighters of Islam on any front. This is why the most difficult spot, namely Shalamcheh, was chosen. In this region the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi regime had constructed many fortifications and had stationed its elite and strong forces to guard them. However, despite all these fortifications and facilities, our forces, at midnight last night, bravely attacked the heart of the faithless forces, killed a large number of them and captured many more, among which were a number of high-ranking Iraqi officers.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council emphasized: We hope this blow which was delivered at the forces of Saddam will awaken those who have gone into a deep sleep and who have been deceived by Saddam's false and deceitful propaganda. They should know that our fighters are capable of delivering a fatal blow at that aggressive and tyrannical regime at any point they decide.

Continuing his speech, the president referred to the holding of the Islamic summit conference. He said: The main reason for holding this conference is that the difficulties and crises of more than 1 billion Muslims and of the world of Islam can be studied and solutions found for those difficulties. It is also being held to hear information about the dangers, such as Zionism, which are threatening the Islamic world.

Tehran's Friday imam said: Kuwait is not a safe and suitable place for convening this conference: In the past few years there have been no Arab, regional, or Islamic conference in Kuwait because Kuwait has not been a safe country. Iraqi fighters regularly pass through Kuwait's airspace. Right from the beginning we have, in a friendly manner, drawn Kuwait's attention to this matter. However, in attempts to create a hostile climate the Kuwaiti media portrayed our warnings as hostile.

Referring to the gains of the Islamic conference, which can solve the problems of the Islamic countries, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i said: We say that Kuwait's leaders should not sacrifice the conference for the sake of their ambitions to become chairman of the conference, and also say that they should allow the conference to be held in another, safer place.

In conclusion the president emphasized: If this conference is held in another place we will take part. However, if the Islamic conference is held in Kuwait, we announce now that we will not accept any of the conference resolutions and recommendations.

In his Friday prayers, the Friday imam of Tehran, referring to the anniversary of the martyrdom of Feda'iyun-e Islam, [Muslim devotees, a number of Muslim devotees were executed by the government at the end of the nineteen forties for assassinating government ministries] paid tribute to them.

Khamene'i: Kuwait as ICO Venue 'In Jeopardy'
LD082033 Tehran IRNA in English 1622 GMT 8 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 8, IRNA — If the forthcoming summit meet of the Islamic Conference Organisation (ICO) were to be held in Kuwait, reactionary states especially the Egyptian, Jordanian, and the Iraqi regimes, would try to influence its proceedings against the Islamic Revolution, said President 'Ali Khamene'i, here Thursday.

The president added that Iran's mere announcement that Kuwait is an unsuitable place for the ICO meet, has put the scheduled venue (Kuwait) in jeopardy.

Speaking on the occasion of the historical anniversary of Qom's uprising against the previous regime, Khamene'i remarked that either the ICO meet will be shifted from Kuwait, or it will be a totally weak gathering whose result will be insignificant for Muslim states. In view of this it is better that the meet is wisely not held in Kuwait at all, he added.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i emphasized that Iran derives its political power which has toppled the pillars of the arrogant world's policies, from the Iranian nation's firm determination and its unflinching backing of the government. The president cited the Iranian officials' speeches and dominating presence at international scenes as a manifestation of this support.

President Khamene'i further said that although the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit concluded in Harare several months ago, the echoes of Iran's firm and explicit statements are still reverberating and have created a lasting impression on the minds of Third World leaders.

Elsewhere in his speech, the president reiterated that the leaders of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeyni, the nation and the officials will never compromise and that through its steadfastness the Islamic Republic will eventually defeat its enemies.

Statement Urges End to Camps War in Lebanon
LD081859 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 8 Jan 87

[Text] A statement was issued today on behalf of Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Sheykh ol-Eslam, who has been making efforts to end the camps war in Lebanon:

In the name of exalted God. The Islamic Republic of Iran, aware of the extent of the threat arising from the prolongation of the camps war in Lebanon, has made efforts concerning its proposed plan for ending the bloodshed of Palestinian and Lebanese brothers. It has pursued intense activities to end the killings and the plot. In keeping with the activities and in view of the latest developments, the following is noted:

1. While praising the friendly countries, fraternal clergy, Islamic forces, and all the groups and personalities that have assisted us and made efforts for the plan to succeed; we send greetings and praise to our two mujahid brothers, His Excellency (Shaykh Muhammad 'Arifi) and Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Isa Tabataba'i, representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for their sharing the plight of the Palestinian brothers caused by the surrounding of Al-Rashidiyah camp.

2. Once again the sides involved in hostilities are asked to observe the text of the plan and to implement their guarantees given to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

3. The adversaries are asked to maintain the cease-fire, the Palestinians to return to their camps, and the siege of Al-Rashidiyah camp to be ended completely. They are also asked to begin to implement the agreements reached under Syria's supervision on the camps in Beirut. These demands must be implemented by next Saturday. The Islamic Republic of Iran further invites the adversaries to select their own representatives from the highest ranks and with full authority. These representatives will discuss the methods of organizing contacts between the Palestinians and the Lebanese from 1400 on Sunday at the Islamic Republic of Iran Embassy in Beirut.

4. We recall that the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance in connection with the form of contacts between the Palestinian and the Lebanese, which was announced on the plan's date of issue, is as follows:

— To safeguard the sea-front route and its security with committed forces from Sidon supervised by clergymen;
— a route for the Palestinian struggles against the Zionist regime must be kept clear under clergy supervision by a Lebanese-Palestinian committee;
— the Palestinians are guests of the Lebanese Muslims, and their weapons must remain in their hands until the liberation of the sacred soil of Palestine. The weapons must not be used to interfere in Lebanon's domestic issues. So the weapons must remain inside the camps, and there should be no Palestinian armed presence outside the camps;
— all interned persons should be released, and all refugees should be returned to their homes.

The Islamic Republic of Iran will hold responsible the adversaries for the result of nonobservance of the text of the proposed plan, and also for their not implementing the commitments they have made.

Reports on FRG Cargo Planes 'New Propaganda'

LD081756 Tehran IRNA in English 1713 GMT 8 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 8, IRNA — Iran's Defence Ministry refuted Thursday allegation in the West German press that Iran has purchased 12 C-160 cargo planes from West Germany.

In a statement released here, the Defence Ministry stressed that the Islamic Republic, unlike the previous regime's policies, will never sign any unequal agreements. Iran concludes deals in the international markets within its affordable financial resources, relying on the experiences of Iranian specialists, it added.

West Germany had initially proposed [the] sale of such planes to Iran, the ministry said, but Iranian experts did not consider the deal worthwhile since the C-160 aircraft are of a poor quality.

The statement, describing such reports as "new propaganda" launched by the West German press against Iran, said that global arrogance has resorted to this hostile act following its previous defeats against the Islamic Republic in the international arena, it added.

Reportage on Combat Operations, New Offensive

'Karbala 5' Launched in Shalamcheh

LD090650 Tehran IRNA in English 0647 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 9, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants launched the successful operation of "Karbala-5" in the Shalamcheh region in the southern sector of the battlefront Thursday night. The operation was launched in response to Iraq's redeployment of internationally banned chemical weapons in the war fronts and to "crush the enemy's war machine."

Early reports reaching here from the operation region said that the Iranian forces have broken through enemy defence lines and fortifications. The Islamic combatants, according to these reports, were now fortifying the positions they have taken over in the operation theater.

'Thousands' of Iraqis Killed

LD090724 Tehran IRNA in English 0721 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 9, IRNA — Thousands of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and many others captured in the Karbala-5 operations launched by Iranian Muslim combatants in the southern operational theater of Shalamcheh Thursday night.

During the operations code-named "Ya Zahra", the Iranian forces advanced four kms deep inside enemy positions in the Shalamcheh region and broke through Iraqi fortifications and barriers about which the loud speakers of the enemy and reaction staged much propaganda. According to latest reports reaching from the Karbala-5 theater the Muslim forces of Iran are now fortifying their positions and defending the achievements of this victorious thrust.

2 Iraqi Planes Downed; Tanks Hit
LD090728 Tehran IRNA in English 0725 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 9, IRNA — Two enemy planes attempting to bomb positions of the Islamic combatants in the "Karbala 5" operation theater were shot down by heavy anti-aircraft fire of the Islamic forces stationed in the operation theater.

The Iranian forces have also destroyed 15 enemy tanks so far.

'Key' Iraqi Headquarters Destroyed
LD090803 Tehran IRNA in English 0755 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 9, IRNA — A key tactical headquarters of Iraq's Third Corps was destroyed by Iranian helicopters on Friday. Five helicopters of Iranian Army Aviation Service (Havaniruz) flying over the operational theater reconnoitered and destroyed the enemy headquarters in the Karbala-5 operations launched in Shalamcheh region, southern fronts, in the midnight Thursday.

The operation was launched at 01:00 hours Friday (09:30 hours GMT Thursday)

'More Than 300' Iraqis Captured
LD090806 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0745 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] According to reports from Khatem ol-Anbiya', in the continuation of Karbala-5 operations on one of the operational axes, dozens of enemy tanks were attacked and destroyed by the fighters of Islam. According to this report, so far during these operations more than 300 Iraqi forces have been captured by the fighters of Islam and taken behind the lines.

Combat Tactics Termed 'Innovative'
LD090813 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 9, IRNA — A military source at the joint Army-IRGC Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq. described Iran's Karbala 5 thrust inside Iraq as "a complicated amphibious" operation. He told IRNA that at the early hours of the operation, the Islamic combatants of Iran succeeded in smashing the so-called "invulnerable" enemy fortifications and gained outstanding victories.

The military source said the successful operation was launched in response to enemy's redeployment of internationally banned chemical weapons and to "inflict a heavy blow on the Iraqi war machine." He added that this will expose enemy fabrications regarding Iran's Karbala 4 operation launched in late December in the southern fronts.

So far, he said, a number of Iraqi brigades and battalions have been smashed and thousands of enemy forces killed and wounded. Many of them have also been taken captive who were being transferred behind the fronts. Also, considerable amounts of enemy equipment including many tanks and heavy vehicles were destroyed, the figures of which will be disclosed soon, he said.

The military source further said that the tactics in the Karbala 5 operation were "quite innovative" which the Islamic forces employed in a "complicated amphibious" operation.

He concluded by saying that the Iranian combatants had infiltrated four kms inside enemy positions in the Shalamcheh region and were defending the positions they have taken over.

Iraqi Troop Concentrations Bombed
LD090827 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 9, IRNA — Jet fighters of the Islamic Republic Air Force Friday morning heavily bombarded enemy troop concentration sites in the Karbala 5 operation theater in the southern front.

According to the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces, the Iranian pilots inflicted heavy losses and casualties in the operation which was launched at 09:00 hours (05:30 GMT) and returned to base safely.

2 More Iraqi Planes Downed
LD090821 Tehran IRNA in English 0806 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 9, IRNA -- Two more Iraqi warplanes were shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire in the Karbala-5 operational region Friday bringing to four the number of Iraqi jet fighters downed since the beginning of the operations in the midnight Thursday.

The amphibious, surprise Karbala-5 assault once more proved to the Baghdad regime and its supporters that Iranian forces are able to deal their fatal blows on [the] enemy in any region they wish.

Captured Iraqis Said To Exceed 500
LD090847 Tehran IRNA in English 0820 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 9, IRNA — The number of Iraqi troops taken captive so far in Iran's [words indistinct] launched early Friday, has exceeded 500.

So far, 250 Iraqi POW's have been transferred behind the fronts. Reports indicate that the Iraqi troops are badly demoralized to the extent that in most cases they have fled the battle scene when faced with Iran's victorious Islamic combatants.

'At Least' 3 Iraqi Brigades Hit
LD090910 Tehran IRNA in English 0848 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 9, IRNA — At least three enemy infantry brigades, 429, 421, and 501 of the 11th Division

of the Third Corps have been totally smashed and their men killed, wounded or captured.

Heavy fighting is continuing between the Iranian combatants and Iraqi forces in the Karbala-5 operation theater. According to latest reports, units of Iran's anti-armoured forces despatched to hunt enemy tanks and armoured vehicles, are successfully advancing. Also, Iranian artillery fire has enemy positions and fortifications under heavy fire, depriving Iraqi troops from engaging in any activity.

WIH Issues Warning to Iraq

LD090914 Tehran IRNA in English 0858 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 9, IRNA — A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) warned on Friday that if the Iraqi regime, because of its inability to confront Muslim forces of Iran at the war fronts, resumes its air raids on Iranian cities it itself will be responsible for its grave consequences.

The WIH spokesman said that following the victorious Karbala-5 operations launched by Iranian forces early Friday, Iraq by claiming that Iran had shelled residential areas in Basra, intends to prepare the ground for resumption of its inhuman attacks on Iran's civilians.

The spokesman noted that the Karbala-5 operations were conducted in Shalamcheh regime and that Iranian forces were careful that their fire only hit enemy positions.

If the Iraqi regime resumes its criminal acts, it will have to wait for not only a decisive response at the war fronts but also other retaliatory measures from Iranian troops, which will certainly have more crucial consequences for the Baghdad government, the spokesman said.

New Front Said Opened in Kushk

LD090956 Tehran IRNA in English 0954 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 9, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants have reportedly opened a new front against enemy troops in the Kushk region in the southern fronts. Reports reaching here said that the Iranian forces took over the enemy troops second embankment in one of the operational axes in the region, at 03:30 (24:00 GMT). More details will follow shortly.

Iraqi Planes Downed Total 6

LD091003 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 9, IRNA — Two more enemy planes were downed by heavy anti-aircraft fire of the Islamic forces in Karbala 5 operation theater in Shalamcheh region of the southern fronts. This brought the number of enemy planes downed since the operation began early Friday to six.

Commander on 'Victorious' Operation

LD091000 Tehran IRNA in English 0947 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 9, IRNA — A military commander of the Karbala-5 operation told IRNA Friday that Iran's successful thrust in the Shalamcheh region in the southern front had been launched within an area of the operational theater of Iraq's Third Army Corps.

The commander also said that the enemy had erected strong fortifications and obstacles which fell into the hands of the Iranian combatants in the early hours of the operation. The Muslim forces of Iran reached the enemy troops rear lines swiftly, he added.

The tactic of taking enemy troops by surprise was a strategy that speeded up the victory of the Iranian combatants, he said. This enabled the Iranian troops to destroy the enemy's war machine.

The commander said the victorious operation made a mockery of the enemy's hollow propaganda to boost the morale of its troops as it did in the Karbala-4 operation launched by Iran in late December.

He added that the Baghdad regime, in false propaganda, over the past two weeks, had attempted to pretend that its troops were prepared for defence at all the war fronts.

Pointing to the low morale of Iraqi troops, the commander said their unprecedented flight from the Shalamcheh battle scene and the failure of the Iraqi commanders to reorganize the forces under their command, showed the extent of the defeat and confusion the Iraqi Army units were suffering from.

He further said that according to reliable information he had received, the enemy forces had been badly demoralized and that Iraqi commanders were preventing enemy troops from escaping by stationing special units behind the fronts.

Iraqi 'Rescue' Battalions 'Routed'

LD091054 Tehran IRNA in English 1025 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem-ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 9, IRNA — Iranian forces routed four Iraqi reinforcement battalions in the Karbala-5 operational region, who had tried to rescue the besieged personnel of Iraq's Third Corps, Friday, killing or wounding most of them. Some units of the reinforcements were also circled by the Muslim forces of Iran. The Iraqi reinforcements were rushed to the region after the surrounded enemy troops in the Karbala-5 operational region had called for help.

The smashed Iraqi reinforcements included a battalion of Infantry Brigade 701, a battalion of Infantry Brigade 107, a battalion of Special Forces Brigade 66, and a tank battalion of the Eighth Mechanized Brigade of the Third Armoured Division. Fighting between Iran's Muslim combatants and the remaining personnel of the Ba'thist troops is continuing with the latter suffering high casualties.

7th Iraqi Plane Downed

LD091118 Tehran IRNA in English 1110 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem-ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 9, IRNA — Another Iraqi plane was shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire in the Karbala's operation theater, Friday afternoon. This brings to seven the number of enemy planes downed until 13:00 hours local time (09:30 GMT) since the victorious Karbala's operation was launched at 01:00 hours local time Friday (21:30 GMT Thursday).

Iraqi Planes Downed Total 8

LD091213 Tehran IRNA in English 1200 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 9, IRNA — Another Iraqi warplane was shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire in the Karbala-5 operational region Friday bringing to eight the number of enemy jet fighters downed since the beginning of the operations early Friday.

The enemy plane tried to bomb Iranian positions in the region but was hit and set ablaze by Iranian surface-to-air fire before crashing in the operational region.

Communique Summarizes Operation

LD091203 Tehran IRNA in English 1148 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 9, IRNA — At least 5,000 Iraqi forces have been killed or wounded and many others captured in the Muslim forces of Iran's Karbala-5 operations in Shalamcheh region, southern fronts, since early Friday, said a military communique here. The communique released by Khatem ol-Anbiya' Operational Headquarters added that 287 Iraqi prisoners of War (POW) have so far been transferred to safe places behind the fronts. Six Iraqi warplanes were also shot down in the operational region, it added.

The headquarters said that Iranian jet fighters bombed Iraqi troop concentration sites in the operational theater many times Friday and returned safely to bases.

A tactical headquarters of Iraq's Third Corps in the region was hit and destroyed by helicopter gunships, the communique said.

Khatem ol-Anbiya' furthermore said that Iraqi brigades 429, 421, 501, as well as an infantry brigade of Iraq's 11th Division were totally destroyed and their personnel killed, wounded, or captured in the early hours of the surprise Iranian assault.

Iranian Muslim combatants ambushed four enemy reinforcement battalions which tried to rescue other Iraqi troops besieged in the operational theater, killing or wounding most of them. The routed Iraqi reinforcements included a battalion of Infantry Brigade 701, a battalion of Infantry Brigade 107, a battalion of Special Forces Brigade 66, and a tank battalion of the Eighth Mechanized Brigade, the headquarters said.

The Khatem ol-Anbiya' communique said that the sophisticated amphibious 'Karbala-5' operations were launched in Shalamcheh, one of most important points alongside Iraqi defensive lines, at 01:00 hours Friday (21:30 hours GMT Thursday) in retaliation for recent Iraqi use of chemical weapons against Iranian forces at the war fronts.

Iran's Muslim combatants in the attack broke through Iraqi troops most fortified positions and barriers, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on them, it said.

The Khatem ol-Anbiya' communique added that the Muslim forces of Iran were heavily shelling positions and concentration centers of Iraqi troops in the Karbala-5 operational region and preventing them from carrying out any military operations.

Khatem ol-Anbiya' is the joint military headquarters of Iran's Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC).

Iraqi Communique Confesses 'Defeat'

LD090948 Tehran IRNA in English 0936 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 9, IRNA — The Ba'thist Iraqi Army in its Communique Number 2,520, has confessed to the defeat of its personnel in the Karbala-5 region in the southern fronts early Friday. The Iraqi military communique admitted that Iranian forces had captured the regions where its Brigades 501 and 429 as well as a battalion of Brigade 421 were stationed.

Because of substantial casualties and losses inflicted on the Iraqi troops, Iraq has been forced to confess to the defeat of its infantry brigades of the 11th Division of the Third Corps in the region located between Shalamcheh and a fish pond.

Ninth Iraqi Jet Downed

LD091441 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 9, IRNA — Another Iraqi warplane was shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire in the Karbala-5 operational region Friday bringing to nine the number of enemy jet fighters downed since the start of the assault early Friday.

POW's Cited on Operation

LD091605 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem-ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 9, IRNA — The number of Iraqi prisoners of war (POW's) transferred to safe places behind the fronts in the wake of the Iranian Karbala-5 operations in Shalamcheh early Friday, tops 350, among them some wounded ranking officers.

An Iraqi POW, Lieutenant Husayn 'Abdallah Karir from the brigade 429 of Iraq's 11th Infantry Division, said his brigade was totally destroyed and most of its personnel were either killed and wounded by heavy Iranian artillery fire. Lieutenand Karir added that several personnel of the Brigade 429 fled the battlefronts in the surprise Iranian assault. The brigade had suffered heavy casualties in Iran's Karbala-4 operations in the southern fronts

on December 24, and was later reorganized and despatched to Shalamcheh region, he said.

The lieutenant furthermore said that he was glad that he had been captured by Iranian Muslim combatants, calling on other Iraqi soldiers to surender to Iranian forces.

Another POW, Malthub Hamzeh who is a 15-year-old student said that the Iraqi regime has recently closed some schools in Iraq because of its manpower shortages. Hamzeh said that Iraqi students are conscripted by force and dispatched to the war fronts by Ba'thist agents. He said that government agents in Iraq routinely ante-date the birth date of youngsters in Iraq in order that they may qualify for forced conscription to the battlefronts.

Iraqis Launch 'Desperate' Air Raid

LD091206 Tehran IRNA in English 1155 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, Jan 9, IRNA — At least 58 civilians were martyred and 100 others wounded (until 10:30 GMT) in Susangerd, northeast of here, Friday as intruding Iraq planes bombarded densely populated areas in the city around noon Friday.

The inhuman and desperate enemy air raid follows bitter defeats in the war fronts inflicted on the Iraqi troops by Iran's Muslim combatants in the course of the ongoing Karbala-5 operation in Shalamcheh region in the southern fronts.

Death Toll Reaches 100

LD091604 Tehran IRNA in English 1559 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Jan 9, IRNA — The number of civilians martyred in Friday's Iraqi air raid on the southern Iranian city of Susangerd reached 100. They are reportedly mainly children.

At least 80 houses, 160 shops, and one gymnasium were either destroyed or damaged in the barbaric Iraqi air attack on three densely populated areas in Susangerd Friday.

Iraq Warned of Retaliation

LD091437 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 9, IRNA — A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) warned on Friday that Iranian forces will begin shelling Iraq's military, economic, and industrial centers in all Iraqi cities except for the four holy towns of Karbala, Al Najaf, Kazimiya, and Samarra as of 08:00 hours (04:30 hours GMT) Saturday.

The WIH spokesman said that the Iranian shelling of Iraqi targets will be in response to Iraq's Friday air raid on the southern Iranian city of Susangerd, in which scores of civilians were martyred and wounded and its renewed use of chemical weapons over the past few days.

The spokesman called on the Iraqi people to evacuate areas near economic, military, and industrial centers in order to be safe from Iranian reprisal attacks.

Iranian forces will continue their deterrent measures effectively until Iraq stops its acts of mischief, the spokesman noted.

IRGC Forces Attack Iraqi Vessels

LD090826 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] According to a report by the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, three vessels belonging to the Iraqi Navy, which were moving from the direction of Kuwait toward Al-Bakr terminal, were attacked by fire from shore guns of the naval unit of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. One of those vessels was set on fire and two others fled.

Communique No 2,710

LD081743 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 8 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 8, IRNA — The Baghdad regime yet again deployed chemical weapons in a region in Sumur fronts, in western theatre, at 12:10 hours local time (08:40 GMT) Wednesday, according to a military communique released here Thursday.

Communique Number 2,710 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces also added that Iran's Navy intercepted five foreign trade ships in the Strait of Hormuz, Wednesday and Thursday but allowed them to proceed, since no Iraqi-bound cargo was found aboard.

Exchange of artillery, mortar, and tank fire raged on throughout the battlefronts, being somewhat more intense in Mehran and Qasr-e Shirin, western fronts, and east of Basra, southern fronts.

An Iraqi munitions depot, some heavy gun emplacements, and parts of Iraqi defence positions were destroyed on Wednesday, as a result of which tens of enemy soldiers were killed or wounded in the north-western fronts.

In the western fronts, the communique said, an Iraqi tank unit was targetted by tank fire of Muslim combatants of Iran and sustained heavy damage. The enemy tank fire was silenced as a result.

An Iraqi motorized column was subjected to the artillery fire of the Muslim combatants and sustained some damage and casualties.

Iran's Gendarmerie forces pounded an Iraqi unit in the region, facing Qasr-e Shirin and also the border region of Dehloran as a result of which five Iraqi soldiers were killed. Some enemy positions were set afire and a light vehicle of the Iraqi forces destroyed. It added that an anti-aircraft gun emplacement, five armament positions, and a vehicle of the enemy were destroyed in the southern fronts by the Iranian Gendarmerie forces.